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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,657	05/26/2005	Toshio Kazama	AB-1387 US	9142

7590 08/09/2005
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, JIMMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/510,657	Applicant(s) KAZAMA, TOSHIO	
	Examiner Jimmy Nguyen	Art Unit 2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 0704 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kazama (US 6,556,033).

As to claim 1, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe, comprising:

a holder member (8) defining a plurality of holder holes (2a, 3a) passed across a thickness of said holder member (8);

an electroconductive coil spring (5) received in each of said holder holes (2a, 3),

a pair of electroconductive contact members (6) provided on either axial end of said coil spring (5);

an engagement portion (6a) provided in each of said holder holes (2a, 3a) for preventing at least one of said contact members (6) from coming off from said holder hole;

said electroconductive coil springs (5) being installed in said holder holes (2a, 3a) so as to be substantially unstressed under a rest condition of said contact probe 6).

As to claim 2, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said contact members on either axial end of each coil spring 95) comprise needle members (6).

As to claim 3, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe according to claim 2, wherein a pair of engagement portions (6a) are provided in either axial end of each holder hole (2a, 3a) to prevent both of said needle members from coming off from said holder hole.

As to claim 4, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe according to claim 2, wherein an engagement portion (6a) is provided in only one of two axial ends of each holder hole (2a, 3a) to prevent the corresponding needle member from coming off from said holder hole.

As to claim 5, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said contact member (6) on one of said axial ends of each coil spring (5) comprise a needle member (6b), and the contact member on the other axial end of said coil spring (5) consists of a coil end of said coil spring, said engagement portion (6a) being provided in each holder (2a, 3a) hole only to prevent said needle member from coming off.

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As to claim 6, Kazama discloses (fig 1) an electroconductive contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said engagement portion (6a) is provided in each of said holder holes (2a, 3a) for preventing only one of said contact members from coming off from said holder hole, and the other contact member is installed substantially flush with the outer surface of the holder member.

As to claim 7, Kazama discloses (fig 1) contact probe according to claim 1, wherein said engagement portion (6a) comprises a shoulder (9) defined in each holder hole (2a, 3a).

As to claim 8, Kazama discloses (fig 1) contact probe according to claim 7, wherein said holder member comprises a plurality of layered support members (8), and said shoulder (9) is defined between adjoining two of said support members having holder holes (2a, 3a, 1a) which are coaxial to each other but having different diameters formed therein.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 -272-1965. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ramtez Nestor, can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jimmy Nguyen

8/5/05


VINH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
A.U. 2829
08/08/05